

LENA Lernen in der nachberuflichen Lebensphase – Learning in later Life

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The team has developed a pan-European approach of **learning that engages older people, the end-users, at each stage of the process**. LENA has focused particularly on the needs of older people who may suffer disadvantage of one kind. A **negotiation process** ensured that everyone felt comfortable with the process. Negotiation of learning is about finding the compromise that enables learners to acquire the skills, knowledge and understanding that they seek in ways that allow learning providers to work within the constraints placed upon them. In the creation of an **empowerment curriculum** it is essential that everyone understands their rights and responsibilities. An **negotiation process** ensures that these are maintained and that everyone feels comfortable with the process. The project team decided to shift away from teacher-centred towards learner-centred education.

Following aspects have been considered:

- the place of learning in the lives of older adults and in the political landscapes of partner countries
- ways of developing and implementing learning differently
- the impact of learning on individuals and on communities

Main outcomes:

- **A process for the development of new learning opportunities**. This process challenges top down educational practice and relies on a democratic approach involving a range of key players, foremost among who are older people themselves.
- **The instructions and resources supporting the developmental process**. These resources provide a core of practical ideas and artefacts to inform development and implementation.
- **A handbook records the journey the LENA partners have taken together** and, in the course of doing so, provides a detailed account of how to provide learning for older people.

Main result:

A tested empowerment curriculum for „Learning in Later Life“, consisting of singular modules, being transnational practicable

Additional results:

- An established transnational network which works at the moment on a follow up of LENA. **LARA Learning, a Response to Ageing** is developing a train the trainer programme
- Didactic material with a set of methods which consist of useful strategies and tools for trainers

Activities

- Working with focus groups to give the elderly themselves the possibility to participate in developing the contents of the curriculum
- Developing particular national modules for the curriculum, each of the partners had been working on one module for their particular target group.
- Testing the modules in the home country and adapting them in a partner country for transnational usage
- Providing a set of methods how to work with the curriculum

Negotiation has given partners the opportunity to share beliefs and principles drawn from national activities about learning and older people. From these it has been possible to identify things we have in common and national variations; things we have never tried but might be able to within national constraints; things that need further consideration and lobbying for at national, regional and local level.